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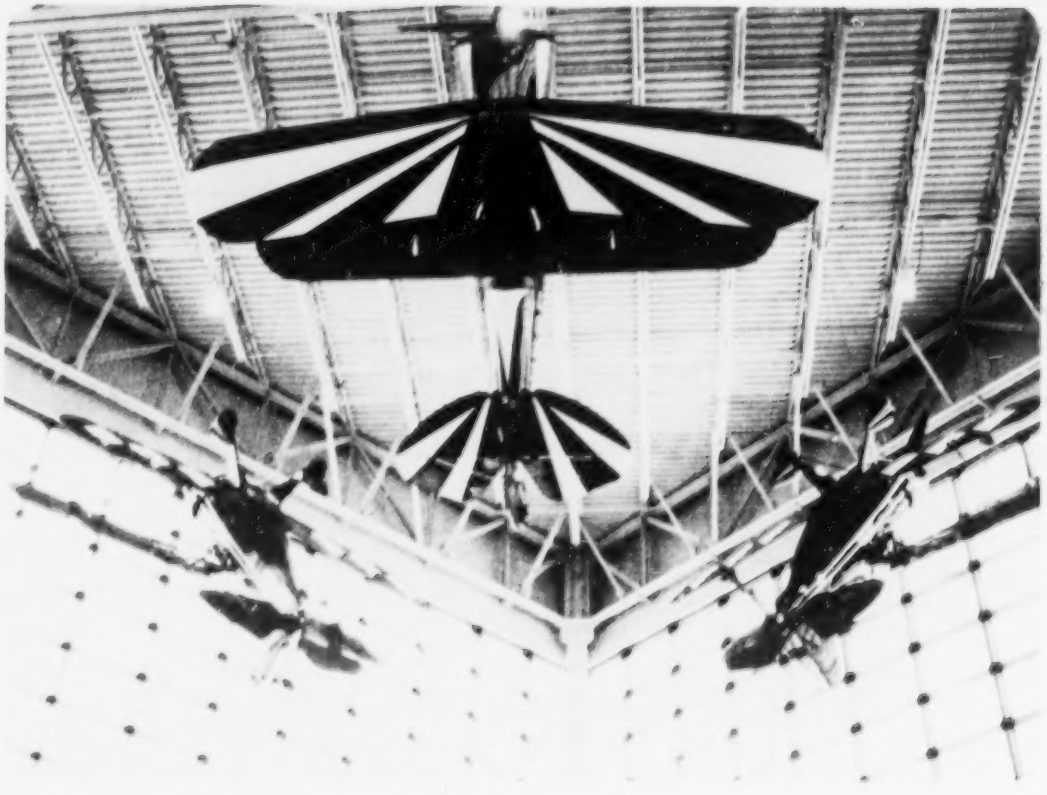
WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

DECEMBER 1986



DILHR
DEPARTMENT OF
INDUSTRY, LABOR & HUMAN RELATIONS

WISCONSIN DATA AND SOURCES

	INDICATOR	SOURCE
L1	Composite Index of Leading Indicators	Wis.Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L2	Average Work Week, Manufacturing	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L3	Average Overtime Hours, Mfg.	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L4	Average Weekly Initial Claims	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L5	Total Job Openings Received	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L6	New Business Incorporations	Wisconsin Secretary of State
L7	Net Gain in Business Phone Access Lines	Wis. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
L8	Building Plans Examined	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C1	Help-Wanted Advertising Index (Milw.)	National Industrial Conference Board
C2	Total Unemployment Rate	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C3	Natural Gas Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C4	New Car Registrations	Wis. Department of Transportation
C5	Electric Power Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C6	Total Securities Registrations	Wisconsin Commissioner of Securities
C7	Manufacturing Employment	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C8	Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg.	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C9	Cash Receipts From Farm Marketing	U.S. Department of Agriculture
C10	Contract Construction Employment	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
X1	Birth Registrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X2	Death Registgrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X3	Natural Net Gain in Population	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X4	Marriage Registrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X5	Consumer Price Index (Milwaukee)	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
X6	Index of Prices Received By Farmers	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture
X7	Net Gain in Residential Phone Access Lines	Wis. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
X8	Labor Disputes, No. of Workers	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
X9	Unemployment Compensation Exhaustees	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations

NOTES: Selected series are seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of the Census X-11 Variant of the Census Method II Seasonal Adjustment Program. The adjusted data are plotted on arithmetic scales.

SECTION A is a summary of recent data and current changes for all indicators and is presented in chart form. The indicators are presented with cyclical timing as the principle basis of classification.

SECTION B is a summary of Wisconsin Labor Force Estimates, including Employment, Unemployment and Unemployment Rates, and selected U.S. data.

SECTION C analyzes the Wisconsin labor force by industry and by specified Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

SECTION D singles out certain economic time series as being leading or coinciding in relation to movements in aggregate economic activity. They are seasonally adjusted and presented graphically. The indicators are grouped by cyclical timing.

COVER PHOTO: Courtesy of Wisconsin Division of Tourism.

THE WISCONSIN ECONOMY

SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER

COMPOSITE INDEX

The Composite Index of Leading Indicators plunged nearly fourteen points in November. The month's 84.1 figure is not the lowest of the year, but the index had been steadily increasing since a low in June. The large drop does not necessarily signal a change of economic conditions; a series of three or four months consecutive declines is needed for positive identification of recession.

Most, but not all, of the leading indicators of Wisconsin's economic activity declined in November, and it was the combination of decreases that propelled the index into this month's dive.

LEADING INDICATORS

For production workers in Wisconsin manufacturing industries, the average workweek increased by half an hour. The November increase of weekly hours on the job is seasonally normal. Part of the average workweek growth is due to increased overtime. Overtime hours usually do increase now, but this November's growth slightly surpasses the normal seasonal trend.

Coupled with the longer workweek was a growth of manufacturing employment, and that is unusual for November.

The average number of initial claims for unemployment compensation increased by over 43 hundred in November, an increase in about double the normal seasonal pattern. Until November, the weekly claims average had been maintaining a level below comparable months of one year ago. November's average is 235 above the year earlier level...not a large difference.

The total number of job openings received by Job Service offices throughout the state declined by 49 hundred this November. Calls for workers usually are scarcer than in the previous month, but November's decrease is a much larger than normal drop. However, the previous month's worker-recruitment number was unusually high. A normal November decrease would be about fifteen hundred.

New business incorporations throughout the state numbered 399 and that's extraordinary. Monthly incorporations have not amounted to less than four hundred since 1976. A decrease of incorporation in November is common, but the extent of the drop this month was unexpected.

The number of building plans examined in November decreased by 264 from one month earlier. While that seems like a large decrease, October is, historically, the month with the greatest number of plans examined; thus, a significant October to November decline is typical. The commercial and industrial building plans examined foreshadow future construction activity.

A WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY SERIES Latest Month		Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	% CHANGE Mo/Ago	% CHANGE Yr/Ago	AVG. 1985
LEADING INDICATORS								
L1 COMPOSITE INDEX OF LEADING INDICATORS								
Seasonally Adjusted	INDEX	84.1	Nov	97.9	93.0	-14.1	-9.6	8.43
L2 AVG. WORK WEEK, MFG.								
Unadjusted	HOURS	41.8	Nov	41.3	41.8	1.2	0.0	41.1
Seasonally Adjusted		41.5		41.5	41.5	0.0	0.0	
L3 AVG. OVERTIME HOURS, MFG.								
Unadjusted	HOURS	3.8	Nov	3.6	3.6	5.6	5.6	3.3
Seasonally Adjusted		3.7		3.6	3.5	2.8	5.7	
L4 AVG. WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	12,372	Nov	8,069	12,137	53.3	1.9	10,380
Seasonally Adjusted		10,100		8,217	9,905	22.9	2.0	
L5 TOTAL JOB OPENINGS REC.								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	6,006	Nov	10,905	7,683	-44.9	-21.8	8,228
Seasonally Adjusted		7,083		11,060	9,063	-36.0	-21.8	
L6 NEW BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	399	Nov	537	503	-25.7	-20.7	542
Seasonally Adjusted		412		534	519	-22.8	-20.6	
L7 NET GAIN IN BUSINESS PHONES ACCESS LINES								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	-282	Nov	355	3,380	-179.4	-108.3	1,356
Seasonally Adjusted		1,289		1,614	1,826	-20.1	-29.4	
L8 BUILDING PLANS EXAMINED								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	546	Nov	810	617	-32.6	-11.5	526
Seasonally Adjusted		515		583	582	-11.7	-11.5	
ROUGHLY COINCIDING INDICATORS								
C1 HELP-WANTED INDEX (MILW.)								
Seasonally Adjusted	INDEX	67	Nov	65	56	3.1	19.6	55
C2 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, TOTAL								
Unadjusted	PERCENT	6.6	Nov	6.4	6.7	-	-	7.2
Seasonally Adjusted		7.1		7.4	7.2	-	-	
C3 NATURAL GAS SALES								
Unadjusted	MIL. THERMS	152.9	Oct	93.6	186.5	63.4	-18.0	252.9
Seasonally Adjusted		201.7		181.4	246.1	11.2	-18.0	
C4 NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	11,814	Nov	26,085	11,980	-54.7	-1.4	16,697
Seasonally Adjusted		13,614		23,281	13,800	-41.5	-1.3	
C5 ELECTRIC POWER SALES								
Unadjusted	MIL. KWH	2020.6	Oct	1986.1	1934.6	1.7	4.4	1893.9
Seasonally Adjusted		1990.7		2020.4	1906.2	1.5	4.4	
C6 TOTAL SECURITIES REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	MIL. DOL	92.5	Nov	154.8	111.3	-40.2	-16.9	131.3
Seasonally Adjusted		68.8		174.1	82.8	-60.5	-16.9	

A WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY SERIES			% CHANGE		AVG.
		Latest Month	Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	1985
C7 MANUFACTURING EMPL.							
Unadjusted	THOUS	519.6 Nov	517.6	516.3	0.4	0.6	515.2
Seasonally Adjusted		519.1	513.0	515.6	1.2	0.7	
C8 AVG. WEEKLY EARNINGS, MFG.							
Unadjusted	DOLLARS	437.23 Nov	426.63	435.14	2.5	0.5	421.57
Seasonally Adjusted		431.19	431.38	428.93	-0.0	0.5	
C9 CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MKTG.							
Unadjusted	MIL. DOL	445.3 Sep	424.2	435.8	5.0	2.2	421.0
Seasonally Adjusted		445.7	419.6	436.4	6.2	2.1	
C10 CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPL.							
Unadjusted	THOUS	68.7 Nov	71.1	67.5	-3.4	1.8	62.8
Seasonally Adjusted		63.5	63.0	62.4	0.8	1.8	
OTHER KEY INDICATORS							
X1 BIRTH REGISTRATIONS							
Unadjusted	NUMBER	5,338 Nov	6,234	6,219	-14.4	-14.2	6,141
Seasonally Adjusted		5,911	6,185	6,889	-4.4	-14.2	
X2 DEATH REGISTRATIONS							
Unadjusted	NUMBER	3,255 Nov	3,351	3,611	-2.9	-9.9	3,475
Seasonally Adjusted		3,377	3,440	3,747	-1.8	-9.9	
X3 NATURAL NET GAIN POPULATION							
Unadjusted	NUMBER	2,083 Nov	2,883	2,608	-27.7	-20.1	2,666
Seasonally Adjusted		2,364	2,761	2,961	-14.4	-20.2	
X4 MARRIAGE REGISTRATIONS							
Unadjusted	NUMBER	2,705 Nov	4,460	2,763	-39.4	-2.1	3,360
Seasonally Adjusted		3,138	3,776	3,207	-16.9	-2.2	
X5 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (MILW.)			(Jul)				
Unadjusted	INDEX	332.9 Sep	331.3	332.4	0.5	0.2	330.5
X6 PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS							
Unadjusted	INDEX	137 Nov	136	132	0.7	3.8	133
Seasonally Adjusted		137	136	132	0.7	3.8	
X7 NET GAIN IN RESIDENTIAL PHONES ACCESS LINES							
Unadjusted	NUMBER	3,992 Nov	2,389	3,246	67.1	23.0	1,615
Seasonally Adjusted		1,534	1,643	1,380	-6.6	11.2	
X8 LABOR DISPUTES, NO. OF WORKERS							
Unadjusted	NUMBER	470 Nov	470	683	0.0	-31.2	450
Seasonally Adjusted		656	239	893	174.5	-26.5	
X9 UNEMPL. COMPENSATION EXHAUSTEES							
Unadjusted	NUMBER	22,581 Nov	23,738	24,767	-4.9	-8.8	26,616
Seasonally Adjusted		25,202	25,280	27,641	-0.3	-8.8	

Section

B

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES NOVEMBER	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Unadjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2448.5	2439.7	2386.3	0.4	2.6
Employment (Inc. Labor Disputes)	2286.8	2283.5	2227.2	0.1	2.7
Unemployment	161.6	156.1	159.0	3.5	1.6
Unemployment Rate	6.6	6.4	6.7	-	-
Seasonally Adjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2450.1	2436.7	2388.3	0.5	2.6
Employment (Inc. Labor Disputes)	2275.4	2256.4	2216.3	0.8	2.7
Unemployment	174.7	180.3	172.0	-3.1	1.6
Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.4	7.2	-	-

WISCONSIN EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES NOVEMBER	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	2049.5	2046.0	2009.3	0.2	2.0
Unadjusted					
Manufacturing	519.3	517.3	516.3	0.4	0.6
Mining	2.7	2.9	2.4	-6.9	12.5
Contract Construction	68.7	71.1	67.5	-3.4	1.8
Transportation and Public Utilities	97.0	97.4	95.2	-0.4	1.9
Elec., Gas and Sanitary Services	17.4	17.4	17.2	0.0	1.2
Wholesale Trade	99.4	99.0	99.3	0.1	0.1
Retail Trade	383.7	381.7	372.8	0.5	2.9
General Merchandise	49.9	48.0	50.1	4.0	-0.4
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	109.6	109.5	104.9	0.1	4.5
Banking	28.7	28.7	28.4	0.0	1.1
Insurance	37.0	36.7	34.6	0.8	6.9
Service and Miscellaneous	431.3	433.8	417.7	-0.6	3.3
Hospitals	67.5	67.3	65.9	0.3	2.4
Private Education	24.2	24.1	24.7	0.4	-2.0
Government	337.8	333.5	333.4	1.3	1.3
State Government	87.0	86.6	86.7	0.5	0.3
Local Government	222.3	218.5	219.1	1.7	1.5

UNITED STATES LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES NOVEMBER	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Seasonally Adjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	118,654	118,482	116,130	0.1	2.3
Employment	110,371	110,240	107,969	0.1	2.2
Unemployment	8,283	8,242	8,161	0.5	1.5
Unemployment Rate	7.0	7.0	7.0	-	-

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT *(Unadjusted)* NOVEMBER	(In Thousands) Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago
All Manufacturing (Including Canning)	519.3	517.3	516.3
All Manufacturing (Excluding Canning)	509.7	505.4	506.0
Durable Goods	315.9	312.9	317.6
Lumber and Wood Prod., (Except Furniture)	23.7	24.0	23.2
Sawmills and Planning Mills	3.2	3.2	3.2
Millwork, Veneer, Plywood & Prefab. Wood Prod.	11.5	11.6	10.9
Furniture and Fixtures	10.4	10.4	10.1
Household Furniture	4.3	4.3	4.3
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	8.5	8.6	8.2
Concrete, Gypsum and Plaster Products	4.4	4.5	4.3
Primary Metal Industries	18.4	18.2	18.8
Iron and Steel Foundries	9.9	9.8	10.0
Fabricated Metal Products	51.6	51.7	51.4
Heating Equipment (Except Electrical) & Plumbing Fixtures	6.2	6.1	5.9
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	11.8	11.9	12.7
Metal Stampings	10.8	10.8	10.9
Machinery (Except Electrical)	98.8	99.1	101.2
Engines and Turbines	19.5	19.2	18.6
Farm Machinery and Equipment	12.1	11.9	12.5
Const., Min. & Material Handling Mach. & Equip.	10.8	10.8	11.1
Metalworking Machinery and Equipment	11.1	11.2	11.8
Special Industry Machinery (Except Metalworking)	11.7	11.9	12.8
General Industrial Machinery and Equipment	13.6	13.6	13.6
Service Industry Machines	6.6	6.8	7.4
Electrical Machinery, Equipment and Supplies	49.9	49.8	49.8
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	16.6	16.8	17.6
Household Appliances	6.4	6.5	6.4
Transportation Equipment	33.1	29.5	33.5
Motor Vehicles and Equipment	24.9	21.4	26.2
Instruments and Related Products	11.4	11.5	11.4
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.1	10.1	9.9
Nondurable Goods	203.4	204.4	198.7
Food and Kindred Products	60.5	62.0	60.9
Meat Products	14.8	14.7	14.6
Dairy Products	17.3	17.1	17.4
Canning and Preserving	9.6	11.9	10.3
Bakery Products	4.6	4.5	4.3
Beverage Industries	7.7	7.5	7.9
Textile Mill Products	4.0	4.2	4.1
Knitting Mills	3.2	3.4	3.2
Apparel and Other Finished Products	6.9	6.9	6.5
Paper and Allied Products	49.2	49.1	48.3
Pulp and Paper Mills	29.8	29.7	29.6
Converted Paper and Paperboard Products	11.3	11.3	10.6
Paperboard Containers and Boxes	6.7	6.7	6.6
Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries	39.6	39.4	38.5
Newspapers	12.6	12.5	12.1
Commercial Printing	17.1	17.1	16.7
Chemicals and Allied Products	9.8	9.9	10.0
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Products	26.5	26.1	23.0
Miscellaneous Plastics Products	22.1	21.8	18.6
Leather and Leather Products	6.7	6.5	7.1
Leather Tanning and Finishing	1.6	1.5	1.8
Footwear (Except Rubber)	3.3	3.2	3.7
Other Nondurable Goods	-	-	-

Section

C WISCONSIN EARNINGS AND HOURS DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS *(Unadjusted)* NOVEMBER	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours		
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	$437	$427	$435	41.8	41.3	41.8
All Manufacturing (Excl. Canning)	441	431	439	41.9	41.4	41.9
Durable Goods	446	434	448	42.0	41.4	42.0
Lumber/Wood Prod. (Exc. Furn.)	343	350	316	41.2	41.4	41.5
Furniture and Fixtures	339	345	326	42.9	43.4	41.7
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	406	422	411	42.7	41.3	42.7
Primary Metal Industries	440	428	431	43.5	42.9	42.8
Iron and Steel Foundries	439	415	445	44.3	42.7	43.5
Fabricated Metal Products	421	414	419	41.0	40.6	40.8
Fab. Structural Metal Prod.	448	431	445	43.3	42.0	43.8
Metal Stampings	444	453	416	40.7	41.3	40.4
Machinery (Except Electrical)	503	482	498	43.0	41.7	42.7
Engines and Turbines	587	538	537	44.6	42.1	41.9
Farm Machinery and Equip.	545	537	547	41.8	41.4	42.0
Const. and Related Mach.	467	455	495	43.2	41.9	44.2
Metalworking Mach. and Equip.	513	517	547	42.8	42.7	43.7
Spec. Ind. Mach. (Exc. Metal)	489	475	515	41.6	41.0	44.4
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	493	491	501	41.6	41.4	41.2
Electrical Mach., Equip. and Supp.	415	412	405	41.7	41.2	40.1
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	435	428	413	41.2	40.7	39.4
Transportation Equipment	564	546	614	41.8	41.4	44.0
Instruments and Related Prod.	350	336	362	39.9	38.5	40.5
Nondurable Goods	425	414	415	41.5	41.1	41.5
Food and Kindred Products	388	365	384	40.1	39.4	40.3
Meat Products	369	354	380	41.5	40.3	42.1
Dairy Products	409	394	392	41.0	40.4	40.8
Textile Mill Products	341	330	297	44.7	44.1	40.4
Apparel and Other Fin. Prod.	253	258	248	39.5	40.3	39.6
Paper and Allied Products	576	574	551	46.3	46.3	46.2
Pulp and Paper Mills	621	623	590	47.0	47.4	46.8
Printing, Pub. and Allied Prod.	426	421	434	38.5	38.4	39.6
Chemicals and Allied Products	478	457	450	41.7	40.4	41.6
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Prod.	328	325	333	40.3	39.8	40.3
Leather and Leather Products.	253	251	244	38.4	37.7	38.2

Section

C WISCONSIN EARNINGS AND HOURS DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS *(Unadjusted)* NOVEMBER	Average Hourly Earnings Including O.T.			Average Hourly Earnings Excluding O.T.		
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	10.46	10.33	10.41	10.00	9.90	9.97
All Manufacturing (Excl. Canning)	10.52	10.41	10.47	10.06	9.99	10.03
Durable Goods	10.61	10.48	10.66	10.19	10.11	10.26
Lumber/Wood Prod. (Exc. Furn.)	8.33	8.45	7.62	8.03	8.10	7.47
Furniture and Fixtures	7.91	7.94	7.81	7.73	7.72	7.47
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	9.50	10.21	9.62	9.23	9.83	9.36
Primary Metal Industries	10.11	9.97	10.08	9.71	9.55	9.63
Iron and Steel Foundries	9.92	9.71	10.23	9.54	9.34	9.85
Fabricated Metal Products	10.27	10.20	10.28	9.88	9.81	9.90
Fab. Structural Metal Prod.	10.35	10.25	10.16	9.85	9.81	9.70
Metal Stampings	10.92	10.98	10.29	10.58	10.51	9.99
Machinery (Except Electrical)	11.69	11.56	11.67	11.18	11.15	11.29
Engines and Turbines	13.16	12.79	12.82	12.30	12.22	12.34
Farm Machinery and Equip.	13.05	12.96	13.02	12.59	12.46	12.59
Const. and Related Mach.	10.81	10.85	11.21	10.52	10.56	10.93
Metalworking Mach. and Equip.	11.98	12.11	12.52	11.57	11.66	11.85
Spec. Ind. Mach. (Exc. Metal) .	11.75	11.59	11.59	11.28	11.13	10.94
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	11.84	11.87	12.15	11.52	11.54	11.83
Electrical Mach., Equip. and Supp.	9.96	9.99	10.10	9.71	9.77	9.80
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	10.55	10.51	10.48	10.50	–	10.22
Transportation Equipment	13.50	13.19	13.96	12.83	12.60	13.26
Instruments and Related Prod.	8.78	8.73	8.93	8.63	8.56	8.79
Nondurable Goods	10.23	10.08	10.01	9.70	9.58	9.49
Food and Kindred Products	9.67	9.27	9.53	9.14	8.82	9.04
Meat Products	8.89	8.79	9.03	8.50	8.49	8.49
Dairy Products	9.98	9.75	9.62	9.44	9.30	9.18
Textile Mill Products	7.62	7.49	7.34	7.25	7.13	7.13
Apparel and Other Fin. Prod.	6.40	6.41	6.27	6.25	6.22	6.14
Paper and Allied Products	12.44	12.39	11.93	11.79	11.77	11.31
Pulp and Paper Mills	13.22	13.15	12.61	12.54	12.54	11.99
Printing, Pub. and Allied Prod.	11.07	10.96	10.95	–	–	–
Chemicals and Allied Products	11.46	11.32	10.82	11.14	11.06	10.53
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Prod.	8.15	8.16	8.27	7.82	7.86	7.96
Leather and Leather Products.	6.60	6.66	6.39	6.49	6.49	6.19

Section

C SUMMARY OF RECENT WISCONSIN DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS, MFG. Production Workers *(Unadjusted)* NOVEMBER	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings Including O.T.			Average Hourly Earnings Excluding O.T.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago
United States	$402	$397	$394	41.1	40.8	40.9	9.78	9.72	9.63	-	-
Wisconsin	437	427	439	41.8	41.3	41.8	10.46	10.33	10.41	10.00	9.90
Selected Areas											
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet-Winnebago-Outagamie)	449	436	452	42.6	42.0	44.0	10.53	10.39	10.27	10.06	9.91
Beloit (City)	414	392	400	40.7	37.5	41.6	10.18	10.46	9.62	-	-
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	426	425	415	40.9	40.8	40.9	10.41	10.41	10.14	10.13	10.17
Fond du Lac (County)	436	426	403	43.9	42.7	41.5	9.93	9.97	9.72	9.36	9.37
Green Bay (Brown County)	480	473	489	42.2	42.5	43.3	11.37	11.12	11.33	10.59	10.46
Janesville (City)	556	528	643	41.6	42.5	45.3	13.36	12.43	14.20	12.85	11.71
Janesville-Beloit (Rock County)	500	469	547	41.2	41.2	43.9	12.13	11.38	12.46	11.52	10.46
Kenosha (County)	482	451	469	41.2	40.2	39.2	11.71	11.23	11.97	11.12	10.79
La Crosse (County)	373	355	363	39.9	39.3	40.1	9.36	9.04	9.06	8.82	8.68
Madison (Dane County)	393	397	397	40.6	41.0	40.8	9.69	9.69	9.74	9.37	9.33
Manitowoc (County)	382	370	364	40.3	39.9	38.9	9.47	9.27	9.37	9.19	8.94
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee-Waukesha-Washington)	487	475	486	41.8	41.1	41.7	11.65	11.56	11.66	11.05	11.04
Racine (County)	447	427	434	41.4	39.6	40.0	10.79	10.79	10.84	10.48	10.53
Sheboygan (County)	402	390	375	42.2	41.5	40.1	9.52	9.39	9.36	9.12	9.08
Wausau (Marathon County)	416	414	408	42.8	42.7	41.9	9.73	9.69	9.73	9.25	9.27

EMPLOYMENT, MFG. *(Unadjusted)* NOVEMBER	(In Thousands)			Percent Change	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
United States	19,220.0	19,247.0	19,313.0	-0.1	-0.5
Wisconsin	519.3	517.3	516.3	0.4	0.6
Selected Areas					
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet-Winnebago-Outagamie)	49.1	49.9	49.4	-1.6	-0.6
Beloit (City)	4.5	4.5	5.4	0.0	-16.7
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	10.1	10.1	9.6	0.0	5.2
Fond du Lac (County)	9.9	10.2	9.6	-2.9	3.1
Green Bay (Brown County)	24.0	24.1	23.8	-0.4	0.8
Janesville (City)	11.0	7.7	10.9	42.9	0.9
Janesville-Beloit (Rock County)	17.4	14.1	18.3	23.4	-4.9
Kenosha (County)	11.4	11.4	12.2	0.0	-6.6
La Crosse (County)	10.5	10.6	10.9	-0.9	-3.7
Madison (Dane County)	21.7	21.7	21.1	0.0	2.8
Manitowoc (County)	11.7	12.1	11.1	-3.3	5.4
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee-Waukesha-Washington)	171.3	170.9	171.8	0.2	-0.3
Racine (County)	23.1	23.3	24.2	-0.9	-4.5
Sheboygan (County)	18.4	18.5	18.0	-0.5	2.2
Wausau (Marathon County)	11.2	11.2	11.0	0.0	1.8

WISCONSIN LABOR CAN COMPETE

by Joseph Tumpach, Jr.

Repeat the following: Wisconsin is not a high-wage state, Wisconsin is not a high-wage state... If that goes against your notion of the cost of labor in the state, your idea of wage levels in Wisconsin coincide with popular opinion, the opinion that Wisconsin labor is expensive. Yet, in a ranking of states according to annual average wage in 1985, Wisconsin placed twenty-ninth! That's in the lower half.

There are some qualifiers to the ranking. First, the District of Columbia, highly stacked with well-paid federal government employees, ranked high, and so, pushed Wisconsin down one notch. But of more significance, the District's high wage level boosted the national average and, thus, affected the standard by which we gage above average and below average wages for individual states. Second, the wage figures include annual labor payments by employers, but exclude the cost of fringe benefits and exclude employment taxes required of employers, such taxes as unemployment compensation which is a large cost of doing business for Wisconsin employers.

The other-than-wage cost of hiring and keeping a worker on the payroll varies from state to state and even within a state, from area to area, among different industries, and by occupation. The total cost of employing a worker simply cannot be compared among the states. The average wage data are the best comparisons we have. If, however, fringe benefits are somewhat standard in so far as varying according to a worker's occupation and industry of employment, rather than according to where in the nation an employee works, then we must attribute the high cost of Wisconsin labor to employer taxes rather than to high wages.

Wisconsin's low rank resulted from a 1985 average annual wage amounting to 17,594 dollars. That is quite a large difference from the average for the nation as a whole. The U.S. average amounted to 19,186 dollars. But the difference is misleading. The two top-wage areas, Alaska and the District of Columbia, grossly outstrip even the ten following states, which are above the national average. Alaska and the District of Columbia are hybrids. Alaska, perhaps due to its geographic isolation from trade markets and due to its high cost of living, has an unusually high wage scale...averaging an annual $28,699 in 1985. That level is bouyed by an annual average in the Alaskan mining industry of over 59 thousand dollars. But wages in all industries in Alaska are well above the national average. Alaska's share of total national employment, however, is small...very small...two-tenths of one percent. So, the state's extremely high wage level probably has a negligible affect on the U.S. average wage.

An average government worker from the District of Columbia earned just over thirty thousand dollars in 1985, and that compares to slightly over twenty thousand per year for government workers throughout the United States. Government workers in Wisconsin - federal, state and local government employees - averaged 19,223 dollars pay in 1985, an average falling below the 20,250 dollar U.S. figure. Wages in other District industries are also high, probably strengthened by the stable, well-paid government sector. But, unlike in Alaska, total employment in D.C. is a significant portion of total U.S. employment, a

portion amounting to about six-tenths of a percent.

OUR STATE, OH, SO LOW

When ranking the states by annual wage, one's first notion is that the wage average for the nation as a whole should fall somewhere mid-way down the list, say around twenty-fifth place. That is not the case. Only eleven states plus the District of Columbia have higher average wages than the national average. The better-than-average wage states represent several regions of the country. Included are Alaska, Michigan, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Texas, Colorado and Ohio. Are the wages in these states so much higher as to skew the national wage level average up? No. Annual Average pay for Delaware, Wyoming and Washington, the three states immediately below the national average, differs from Ohio's, the state immediately above the U.S. average, by only about three to five hundred dollars per year.

One noticeable aspect of the top-pay states is that many are heavily populated and have high employment figures. The eleven above-average-wage states, in 1985, employed nearly half, 48.7 percent, of the nation's working population. Half of the nation's workers, in eleven states, it appears, can make the other half of the country's employees, in thirty-nine other states, complain about being underpaid. But, if you're considering relocating and finding a new job in order to give yourself an eight thousand dollar raise, remember that the cost of living varies greatly from region to region of the country. Much of the pay increase you've given yourself will be diminished by the difference of cost for the business lunch at the typical mid-Manhattan restaurant and lunch at Joe's Atomic Bar and Grill in Middleton, South Dakota. Not only are Wisconsin workers in the bottom half of the wage range for all states, but Wisconsin earners have not kept pace with growth in the national average pay. In 1984, Wisconsin's annual average wage was $1327 below the national average; and in 1985, our state was $1592 below the nation as a whole. If you were an average Wisconsin wage earner in 1985, workers in thirty-six other states and the District of Columbia received a greater rate of pay increase than you. That is, over seventy percent of the states had faster wage growth than Wisconsin. Some of those states, however, had a lower actual amount of growth, despite their faster rate of growth. Idaho, for example, had a 3.5 percent growth in annual pay, amounting to 560 dollars more per year; Wisconsin, a 3.3 percent growth, amounting to 568 dollars more per year.

Also, Wisconsin's annual average wage increases have slowed. In 1984, the Badger State's annual average wage had grown, from the previous year, by 3.9 percent, and only twenty-nine states plus the District of Columbia ranked higher in rate of growth. That has implications for job development in Wisconsin. The once vaunted advantage of low labor costs with which other states wooed industry may be disappearing.

THE INDUSTRY MIX KEY

Does the industry mix within a particular state determine its ranking on the range of annual wages for all states? That is, does a state rank high because it has a large portion of, say, well-paid manufacturing jobs in its total labor market? Not necessarily. California and Illinois, both highly ranked in the annual wage spectrum, have manufacturing employment which composed 19.1 and 20.6 percent of their total nonfarm wage and salary employment levels

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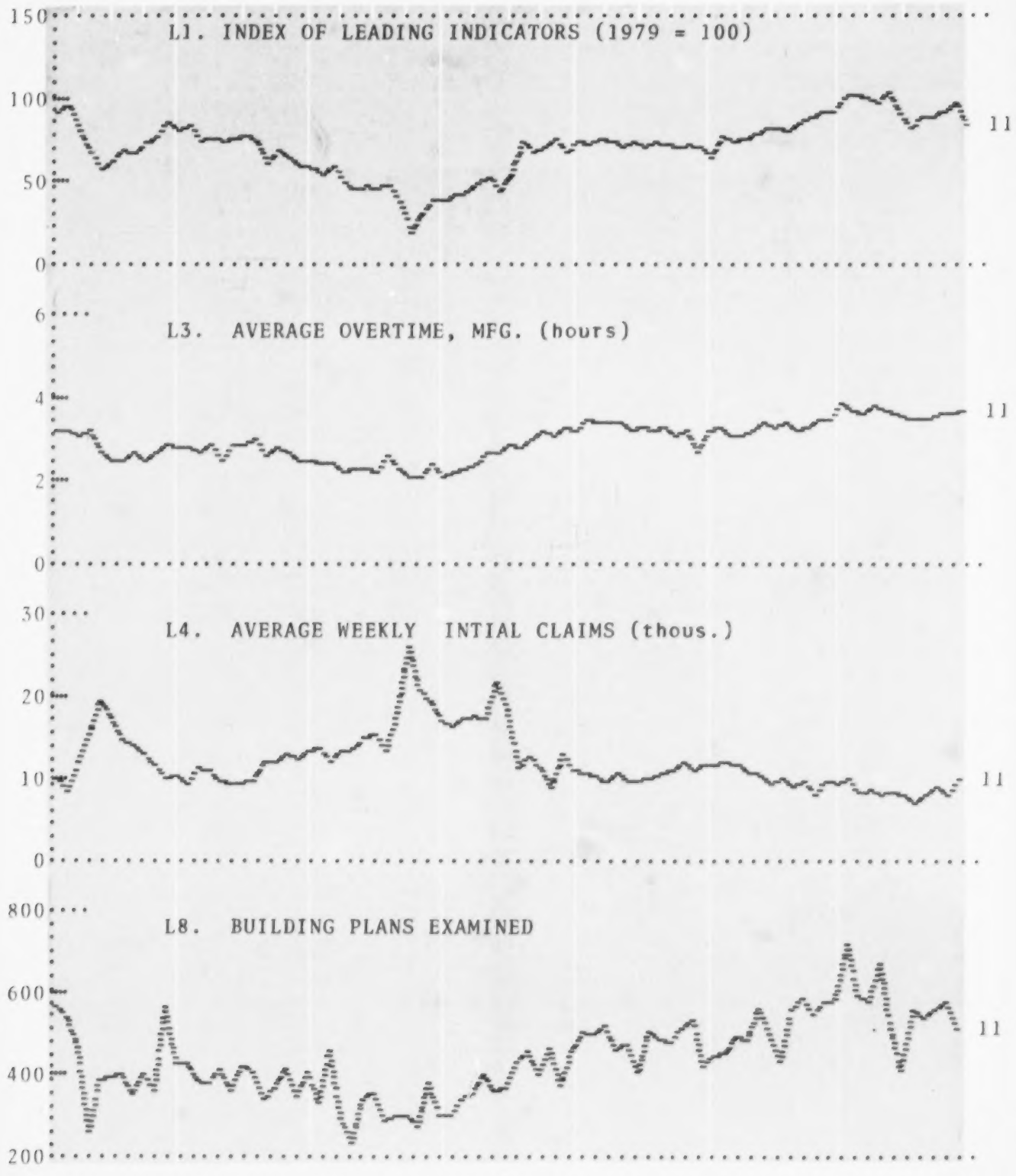

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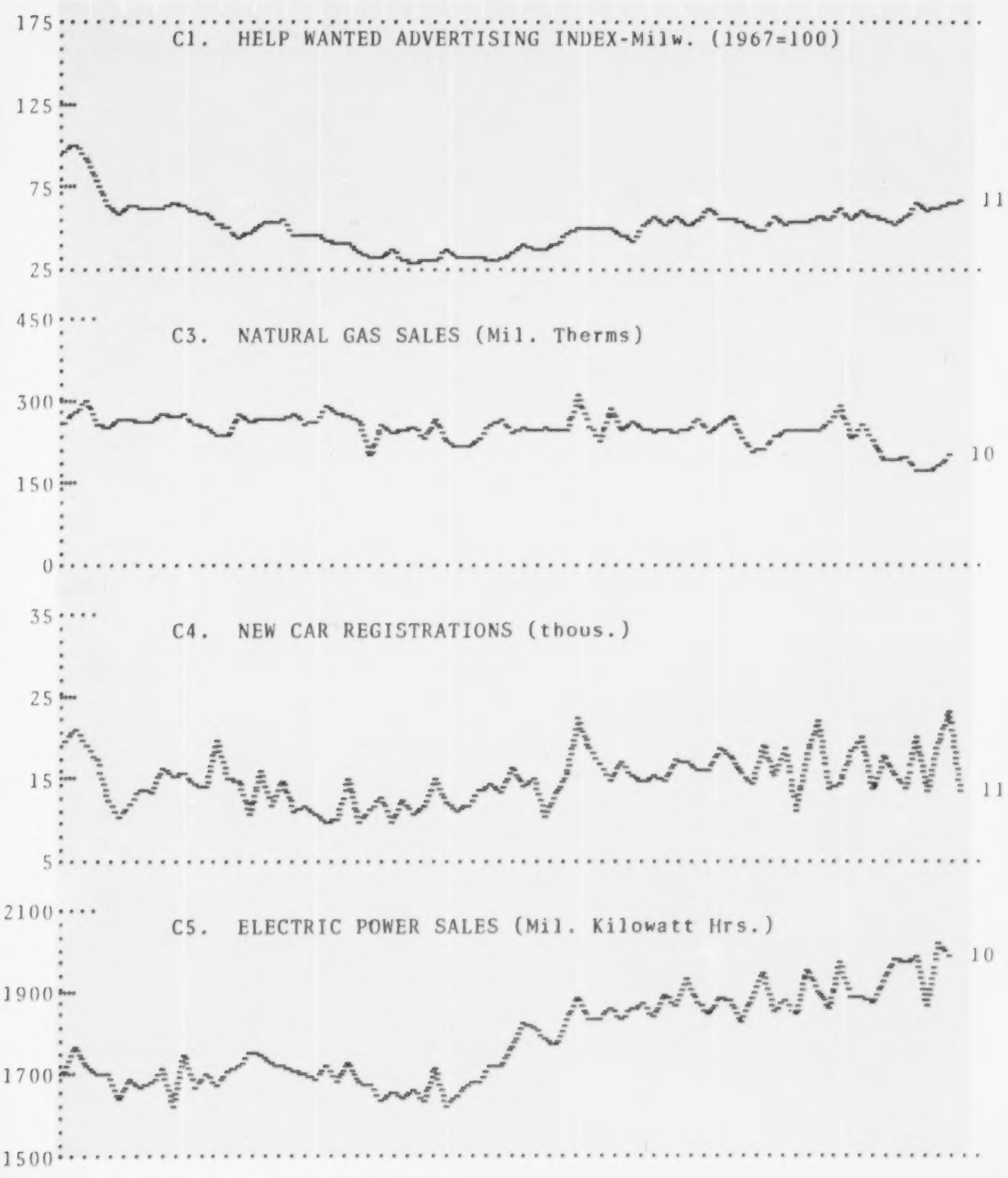

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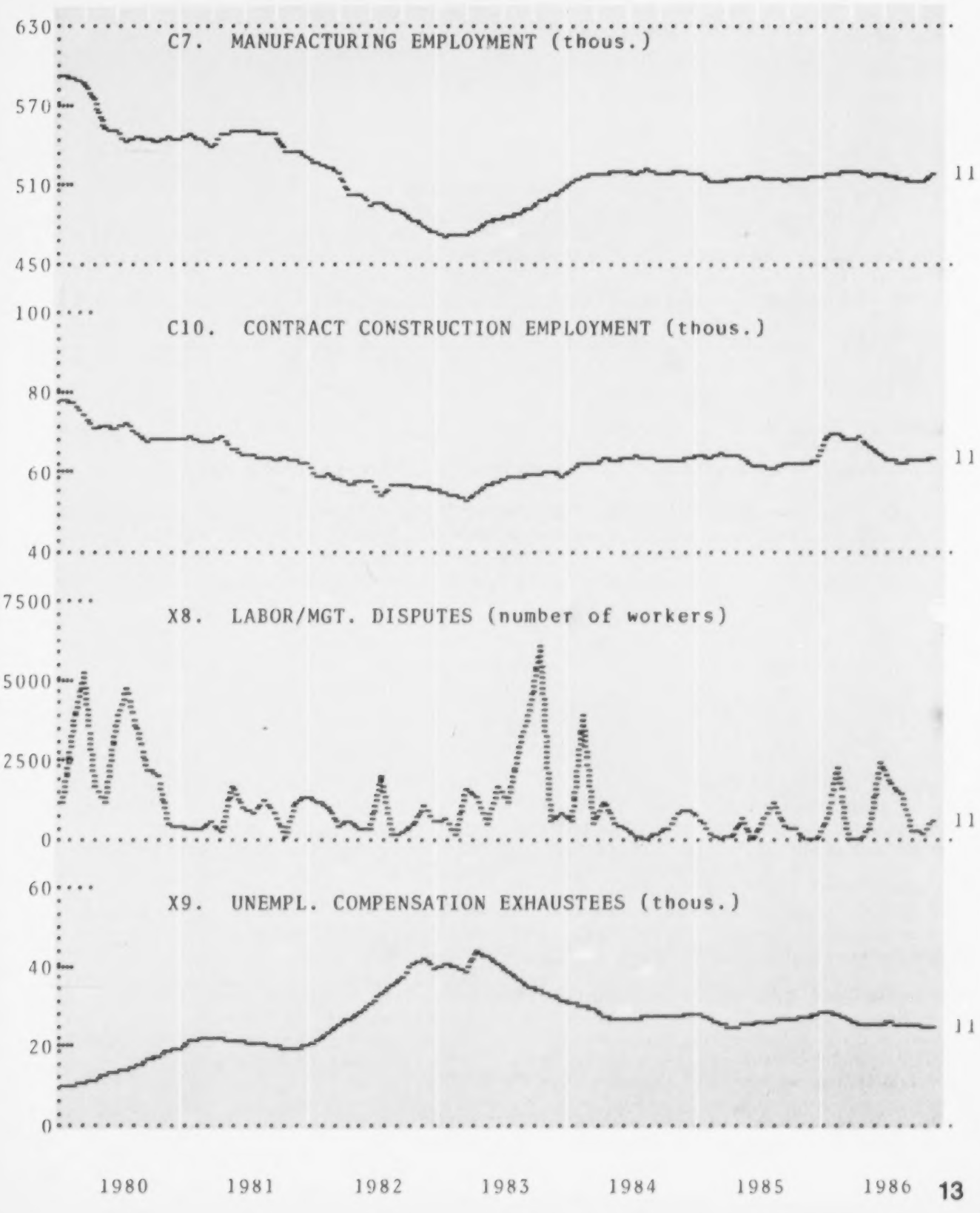

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during 1985. Conversely, Maine and Mississippi rank in the lower third of the annual wage range. Manufacturing there makers-up 23.1 and 26.4 percent of those state's employment levels. In the middle of the income range, Georgia's manufacturing workers represent 21.6 percent of the state's wage earners; and West Virginia's 15.0 percent. Manufacturing in Wisconsin employed 21.0 percent of our workers in 1985.

A more telling ranking is an analysis of industries within particular states according to industry wage levels. In only four states, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, was manufacturing the top wage industry. In Delaware and Washington, pay in manufacturing was exceeded by mining income, but those states have insignificant numbers of miners. Wisconsin's high-wage reputation, it seems, rests on the phenomenon that our state manufacturing employees, a large segment of our working, are better paid than workers in other industries within the state.